



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 January 2009

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced on Friday a recall of lot no. UD30654 of Healon D, an ophthalmic viscosurgical device manufactured by Advanced Medical Optics Inc. of Santa Ana, California. Tests of this lot revealed elevated levels of endotoxin. (See item [21](#))
- A man suspected of placing gift-wrapped bombs in two banks and in an alleyway in Aspen, Colorado, Wednesday shot and killed himself a short time later. Nearly all of downtown was evacuated. (See item [29](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 2, Associated Press* – (International) **Crew fights off Somali pirates with water jets.** Crewmen fired high pressure water jets Friday to fight off heavily armed Somali pirates trying to board a Greek oil tanker in the dangerous Gulf of Aden, officials said. It was the fourth pirate attack of the New Year. Armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades, pirates in three speedboats twice tried to board the Greek-flagged Kriti Episkopi but were driven away when the crew turned fire hoses on them and EU aircraft scrambled from a nearby European Union naval flotilla to help, the shipping company and Greek government officials said. The 29 crew members were

unhurt and the tanker, carrying oil from the Persian Gulf to Greece, was not damaged in the attack off the Somali coast, according to the ship's operating company Avin International.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gB7YMEDuCwwY9ncDOtPAkEI4-H2wD95F43JO0>

2. *January 1, Barre Montpelier Times Argus* – (Vermont) **Propane truck slides off road; leak prompts evacuation.** A propane truck slid off a slick back road in Chelsea, Vermont, on Tuesday morning and then sprang a leak as rescue crews tried to pull it back onto the road. A cloud of the explosive gas filled the air, prompting the evacuation of about 36 homes. With propane leaking, rescue workers quickly evacuated the area, leaving hoses, lighting equipment, and generators behind, said an assistant Chelsea fire chief. The Vermont State Hazardous Material Response Team was initially called in at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday. They returned to the site at about 10 p.m. when gas began leaking, according to the chief coordinator of the response team. By Wednesday afternoon the leak had stopped, and rescue crews were preparing to pull the truck out of the ditch, officials said. There was a stream in the area of the accident, but the environmental impact will be minimal, said the chief coordinator of the response team. The propane truck is owned by Leonard's Gas & Electric, which is based in Woodstock and is part of the Dead River Company. The Department of Motor Vehicles will inspect the truck, and examine the driver's credentials and the credentials of the gas company, according to the chief of safety at the DMV.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20090101/NEWS03/901010348/1004/NEWS03>

3. *December 31, KTVK 3 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Fire, explosion rip through SRP plant under construction.** One person was hurt when a fire and explosion tore through part of a Salt River Project (SRP) power plant under construction at Springerville Generating Station Wednesday morning in Springerville, Arizona. According to an SRP spokeswoman, the fire broke out at about 10 a.m. in a switching room of Unit Four. That fire sparked an electrical explosion. One person suffered minor injuries. The affected unit has been under construction since February 2007 and was slated for completion in December 2009. The Springerville facility has three units in operation. Two of those units are owned and run by Tucson Electric, the third by Tri-State Generation and Transmission. The fire did not cause any power disruptions. It is not clear yet what caused the fire that touched off the explosion.

Source: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/stories/springerville-local-news-123108-srp-plant-fire.25f5b26e.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *January 2, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Uranium storehouse not ready to load yet.** Construction of the government’s new storehouse for bomb-grade uranium is complete, but no uranium will be loaded into the fortress-like facility for more than a year. A lot of testing and training will take place in the months ahead, and that will be followed by a series of readiness reviews to actually certify the high-security nuclear facility for use. “We expect to receive authorization to begin loading the facility about March 2010,” said a federal spokesman at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant. The News Sentinel received a post-construction tour of the storage center on December 17. That reportedly will be the last time uncleared personnel are allowed inside the \$549 million hardened facility, which was designed to survive almost any type of terrorist assault. Some of the security features, such as the massive vault doors, are multiple and redundant to prevent unwanted access to the inner sanctum — where the nearly pure stocks of U-235 will be stored. The only entry to the facility comes from the east side, where hydraulically operated loading docks are located. At another, undisclosed site at Y-12, workers have been busy for more than a year pre-loading the rackable boxes with uranium to prepare for the eventual move into the highly enriched uranium materials facility.  
Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/jan/02/uranium-storehouse-not-ready-to-load-yet/>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *January 2, Kennebec Morning Sentinel* – (Maine) **State crafts report on security breaches.** The state’s Bureau of Financial Institutions has released a report examining the impact of data security breaches on Maine banks and credit unions. The “Maine Data Breach Study” identifies the various consumer protection steps taken by financial institutions in the aftermath of a breach and highlights the costs associated with breaches. “This study reveals the impact a large-scale data breach has on Maine banks, credit unions and their customers,” the bureau superintendent said in a release. “The cost to banks and credit unions — in terms of financial and staffing resources — can be substantial.” Since January 1, 2007, there have been two major data breaches affecting Maine’s financial institutions: the TJX data breach that became known to banks and credit unions in January 2007 and the Hannaford Bros. Co. breach, which became known to banks and credit unions in March 2008.  
Source: <http://morningsentinel.maintoday.com/news/local/5760693.html>
6. *January 2, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FDIC employs tool used for S&L crisis.**

Federal regulators are dusting off a tool used during the savings-and-loan crisis to help deal with an expected wave of bank failures in 2009. The mechanism, known as “loss sharing,” gives healthy banks an incentive to take on troubled assets of a failed institution, with the government agreeing to assume the majority of future losses. In most other cases, the buyer takes the failed bank’s deposits, leaving most of the assets to be managed and sold by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The FDIC used versions of the loss-sharing model several times last year, including during the initial attempt to rescue Wachovia Corp., as part of federal aid to Citigroup Inc., and during the fire sale of two failed California institutions.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123086700722648471.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123086700722648471.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

7. *January 2, Bangor Daily News* – (Maine) **Members of Maine credit unions warned of e-mail ‘phishing’ scam.** Members of Maine’s credit unions should use caution if they spy an official-looking e-mail in their inbox that directs them to reactivate their ATM cards and personal identification numbers. The e-mail is a scam, said a member of the Maine Credit Union League. “It looks very real,” he said. “Anything official to your home e-mail address is bound to raise a few eyebrows.” He said that credit unions would never contact their members by e-mail asking for private account information.

Source: <http://www.bangornews.com/detail/96310.html>

8. *January 1, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **Federal regulators slam Blue Ridge Savings.** Federal and state regulators have sharply reprimanded Blue Ridge Savings Bank, saying it has been poorly led and managed, and has been operating “with a large volume of poor-quality loans.” Blue Ridge operated with inadequate reserves, committed unspecified violations of law, and the actions of bank managers put deposits at risk, according to an order from the FDIC. The bank agreed to fix the problems listed in the 25-page order filed Nov. 3 without admitting or denying the problems it details. The agreement is common in cease-and-desist actions from the FDIC. Blue Ridge Savings was the only bank in North Carolina to get that type of order last year, according to federal records.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009901010339>

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## **Transportation Sector**

9. *December 31, Sun-Times News Group* – (Illinois) **Suspicious package prompts evacuation of Metra.** Metra riders heading between Aurora and Chicago on Wednesday evening found their commute longer than usual after a suspicious package found on a train prompted an evacuation at a west suburban station. Burlington Northern Santa Fe train No. 1268, which was scheduled to arrive at Union Station at 3:42 p.m., arrived more than an hour late after the unexpected delay in Berwyn, according to a Metra spokesman. “A suspicious package [was] found on the train. Crew members found it unattended and when no one claimed it, they don’t take any chances,” he said. The train was evacuated as Berwyn police investigated the package, which was found to contain “nothing of concern,” he said.

Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/metra.suspicious.package.2.898065.html>

10. *December 31, WOWT 6 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **Airplane brawl investigation continues.** The U.S. Attorney for Nebraska said Wednesday he is still waiting on reports from the FBI about an unstable passenger aboard a Continental Air Express commuter jet who attacked a flight attendant. The jet was heading from Houston to Omaha on December 26 when a middle-aged man left the plane's lavatory after about 40 minutes covered in his own feces. The flight attendant asked the passenger to go back into the lavatory and clean up, which prompted the attack. The injured attendant, with help from the passengers, got the unruly passenger buckled in and calmed down for the landing at Eppley Airfield, which took place without incident an hour later. The airline will not comment on the attendant's condition. Sources tell Channel 6 News the man resides at a care facility in Iowa and was returning from a Christmas holiday trip alone, completing a trip from Chicago to Houston and then Omaha. The U.S. Attorney says the man was not arrested, but detained at the airport by authorities until picked up by trained professionals from the care facility in Iowa.

Source: <http://www.wowt.com/home/headlines/36909299.html>

11. *December 31, WTOP 103.5 Washington, D.C.* – (Maryland) **Inspection reveals crack in Amer. Legion Bridge.** A routine inspection has uncovered a crack in the American Legion Bridge. The Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) says inspectors discovered a crack in one of the interior steel beams on the Maryland side on the Inner Loop of the Beltway on Wednesday. As a precaution, MSHA is closing the left lane on the Inner Loop. Repair crews will work over the weekend to reinforce the bridge with a temporary support. Officials warn there may be additional lane closures over the weekend. The Maryland governor says MSHA hopes to reopen the lane by Monday.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1562490>

12. *January 2, WJLA 7 Washington* – (Illinois) **FAA: 2 dead in fiery plane crash at Ill. airport.** Two passengers died late Thursday when an airplane crashed at Joliet Regional Airport, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. "We understand that an aircraft fatality did occur at Joliet, with two fatalities and an aircraft that burned," the FAA spokeswoman said. The Joliet Park District executive director says the crash occurred at about 9 p.m. under clear skies. The district operates the airport. Joliet police told the Herald-News newspaper of Joliet that the plane burst into flames as it was landing and that a man and woman, likely a couple, were killed. The Chicago Tribune reported the plane departed Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0109/581950.html?ref=rs>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *January 1, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Suspicious powder found in Christmas card.** Hazardous materials crews rushed to a Dougherty County home, and first responders shut down a road after a suspicious powder was found. Around 2:30 Wednesday, Dougherty County Police and the Albany Fire Department's Hazmat Team responded to

the 100 block of Honeysuckle Drive. A woman there opened a Christmas card that contained white powder and a note that said she had put herself in danger. Honeysuckle Drive was blocked for more than an hour as a precaution as the hazmat team investigated. The hazmat team secured the powder and will send it to the state health lab for tests.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9603880&nav=5kZQ>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

14. *January 2, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (New Mexico) **FDA prevents two dairies from adulterating animal drugs and food.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Friday that the District Court for the District of New Mexico has enjoined Do-Rene and Clover Knolls Dairies and their owners from adulterating new animal drugs and introducing adulterated food into commerce. Both companies are based in Clovis, New Mexico. FDA has cited the defendants on multiple occasions, most recently following inspections of the dairies from June 24 to July 1, 2008. During these inspections, an FDA investigator noted that the defendants were not keeping adequate medication records to prevent unsafe drug residues in cattle offered for slaughter, that they failed to review treatment records prior to offering an animal for slaughter, and that they were using medications for unapproved indications not specified on the drug label. Although using drugs in this “extralabel” manner is legal with a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship, the defendants did not have such a relationship. Under the terms of the consent decree, the defendants and their employees cannot introduce any adulterated food into commerce, use animal drugs in an “extralabel” manner without a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship, or use drugs in animals in which such drugs are expressly forbidden. Failure to obey the terms of the consent decree could result in civil or criminal penalties.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW01938.html>

15. *January 1, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Ill. chosen to simulate livestock disease outbreak.** Federal officials are planning to simulate a livestock disease outbreak for a security training in northeastern Illinois this summer. The two-day training will simulate a foot and mouth disease outbreak. It will be hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The idea is to train and prepare health officials, local authorities, and first responders for an emergency involving the disease. About 100 people are expected to participate at the event in Wheaton this June. The project is federally funded.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-simulatedoutbreak,0,2199779.story>

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## **Water Sector**

16. *January 2, Bloomberg* – (Tennessee) **Toxic-metal tainted U.S. river called unfit to drink.** Tests from the Emory River in East Tennessee showed levels of toxic heavy metals 2 to 300 times higher than limits allowed for drinking water after an accident at a

power plant last month, environmental groups said. Water samples examined by Appalachian State University scientists showed high levels of arsenic, lead, mercury, and other metals, according to a report by Boone, North Carolina-based Appalachian Voices. The results contrast with samples taken by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which operates the Kingston Fossil Plant where a holding pond burst on December 22, spilling a billion gallons of water mixed with ash from burning coal. The TVA sampled water in the Emory River and other sites, according to a statement on its Web site updated Thursday. “Metals were not detected or met state requirements for protection of fish and other aquatic life,” the TVA said. An exception, the TVA said, was for lead found in two samples nearest the slide. The sampling was done the day of the spill.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aVhG0kONj6F0&refer=us>

17. *January 1, Northwest Indiana Times* – (Indiana) **Tainted water from USS leaking to lake.** Officials at U.S. Steel Gary Works say they are designing a plan to stem groundwater that has been leaking benzene into Lake Michigan for months. By the end of this month, the steelmaker is expected to submit a treatment plan to state and federal environmental regulators for a \$1 million treatment system to stop the chemical leak, according to a report in the Northwest Indiana Times. This past summer, as part of the steel plant’s federal order to analyze soil and groundwater for contamination, officials discovered benzene-laden groundwater had been trickling into the lake. Neither U.S. Steel nor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials know how much benzene has gone into the lake. The company found benzene levels of 1 to 3 parts per million in groundwater monitoring wells near the affected water, an EPA project manager said. “It’s not a level that’s showing any immediate risk,” the manager said. “But it’s high enough.” Based on inspection of the vast plant, officials suspect the benzene stems from an old tank farm at the coke plant that was removed years ago. The flow of contaminated groundwater sped up, in part, because of a crack in a lake breakwall circling the plant. Before the breach, which occurred seven years ago, groundwater flow to the lake was slowed by water accumulated behind the wall, a U.S. Steel spokesman said.

Source:

[http://nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/01//news/top\\_news/doc90654af557bd68ce862575300078e1da.txt](http://nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/01//news/top_news/doc90654af557bd68ce862575300078e1da.txt)

18. *January 1, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Tests: Runoff from Koppers contains chemicals.** Local officials are concerned that rain water running off the Koppers wood-treatment facility near N. Main Street may be carrying arsenic and copper into Gainesville’s creeks. The international company based in Pittsburgh uses both chemicals at the industrial site off NW 23rd Avenue to treat wood utility poles, preventing insect and weather decay. For the first time in seven years, Koppers in 2007 tested the storm water running off its 90-acre site and into Springstead Creek. According to those tests, the results of which were requested by The Sun, the storm water leaving the Koppers site contained six times more arsenic and 13 times more copper than allowed under Koppers’ permit with the state, said a compliance and enforcement manager with the

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). While the DEP says they do not pose a threat to human safety, they do exceed the levels set by the state for acceptable levels of copper and arsenic in storm water from industrial sites. Representatives of Koppers issued a written response to inquiries from The Sun saying that the company is in the process of implementing a storm water pollution prevention plan that will improve the results of the next scheduled tests in 2010.

Source: <http://www.gatorsports.com/article/20090101/NEWS/901011013>

19. *December 31, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Officials say Lewisville Lake OK despite sewage leak.** An estimated 9 million gallons of untreated sewage leaked over the last two weeks from a Frisco pipe into a creek feeding Lewisville Lake, a recreation hotspot and key source for drinking water in North Texas. State environmental inspectors expect no health risks from the spill, which originated from a broken sewer line under the Dallas North Tollway. Workers with the North Texas Municipal Water District, which operates the downstream Stewart Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, discovered the break Monday afternoon. City of Frisco utility crews repaired it five hours later. The 24-inch line, installed in 1991, carries raw sewage from Frisco to the Stewart Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. On December 14, plant officials noticed a flow reduction from the line of about 500,000 gallons a day. The line may have been leaking for two weeks, the Frisco deputy city manager said. Officials estimate about 9 million gallons spilled, though they have no way to accurately measure. The breach probably occurred because of water erosion over an improperly repaired prior break to the pipe, he said.

Source: [http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-sewagespill\\_31met.ART0.State.Edition1.4a66eb0.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-sewagespill_31met.ART0.State.Edition1.4a66eb0.html)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

20. *January 2, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Deadline puts \$5.7M disaster fund at risk.** State officials are disputing the federal government's claim that Alabama should repay \$5.7 million it received for disaster preparedness. The government reimbursed Alabama for the millions it spent for its Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program — part of a federal project administered by state public health officials. The inspector general's office at the federal Department of Health and Human Services conducted a routine audit of claims paid to the state for the program between September 1, 2004, and August 31, 2006. Inspectors are questioning part of the \$6.2 million that was paid to the Alabama Hospital Association, a statewide trade organization for hospitals, health systems and related companies. They said the money was put in an interest-bearing account by the association, and \$5.7 million was not actually spent on the intended goods and services before a program deadline. The inspector general's office has since recommended to the federal Department of Health & Human Services that the money be repaid along with interest. The state did repay the federal government about \$200,000 in interest, but contends the money was properly spent. The money was spent for things like antibiotic stockpiles for 50 hospitals, trailers to handle emergency casualties, and medical equipment. "It's all because the hospital association couldn't get things done in

the time that now the IG is saying it should be done by,” said the state health officer.

Source: <http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20090102/NEWS02/901020303>

21. *January 2, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **FDA announces class I recall of ophthalmic surgical device.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced a class I recall of lot no. UD30654 of Healon D, an ophthalmic viscosurgical device (OVD) manufactured by Advanced Medical Optics Inc. (AMO) of Santa Ana, California. OVDs are viscoelastic materials used to maintain space in the eye during surgery. Typically, OVDs are pre-packaged in a syringe and are applied using a small tube. On October 30, 2008, AMO voluntarily recalled all 4,439 units of Healon D lot no. UD30654 of Healon D, due to complaints of inflammation after eye surgery, including Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome (TASS). At that time, AMO informed customers of the number and nature of adverse event reports associated with OVD from that lot, and included a fax reply form for quick communication. However, as of December 3, 2008, AMO had retrieved only 964 units of the 1,450 that had been distributed in the United States. AMO received 66 adverse event reports associated with the recalled products. Tests of this lot revealed elevated levels of endotoxin, which has been associated with post-operative intraocular inflammation and TASS.

Source:

[http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/FDA\\_Approval\\_240/FDA\\_Announces\\_Class\\_I\\_Recall\\_of\\_Ophthalmic\\_Surgical\\_Device.shtml](http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/FDA_Approval_240/FDA_Announces_Class_I_Recall_of_Ophthalmic_Surgical_Device.shtml)

22. *January 1, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Kansas ‘pill mill’ clinic seized.** U.S. Marshals have seized a Wichita-area clinic linked to 59 overdose deaths. A court order authorized the marshals to secure the clinic. On Wednesday, they changed the locks and placed “No Trespassing” stickers on the doors. The owner of the clinic and his wife are awaiting trial on charges of running a “pill mill.” They are accused of directly causing four deaths and contributing to 21 others.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28465418/>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

23. *January 2, Occupational Health & Safety* – (National) **\$34 million available in emergency operations center grants.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is accepting applications until February 27 for about \$34 million in FY 2009 Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) grants that help state, local, and tribal emergency managers and personnel. EOCs may request up to \$1 million for construction projects or up to \$250,000 for renovation projects through the FY 2009 grant program, which requires a federal match of 75 percent and a 25 percent grantee cost-share cash or in-kind match.

The governor of each state and territory has designated a State Administrative Agency to apply for and administer funds under the program. That agency, in coordination with the state emergency management agency, reviews EOC project applications and prioritize projects to ensure applications are consistent with statewide efforts and priorities. A national review panel including national and regional FEMA staffers and experts will determine who gets about \$11 million of the month that will be awarded competitively. Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/01/02/2-34-million-available-in-emergency-operations-center-grants.aspx>

24. *January 1, Muncie Star Press* – (Indiana) **Regional 911 center considered.** Officials in Muncie, Indiana, are exploring construction of a new 911 center with grant dollars and private funding. Private funds could be raised if the center were to include a data vault that would provide data back-up services for the private sector, the director of Delaware County's EMA and 911 Center said. The state and federal governments are pushing for consolidation of emergency public safety dispatch by a county or multi-county region. A new state law requires each county to have no more than two public safety answering points by Jan. 1, 2015. That will provide consolidated, effective and efficient public safety dispatch in each county, according to the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform. Source: <http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20090101/NEWS01/901010358>

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## **Information Technology**

25. *January 1, Network World* – (International) **Warning over DNS protection.** IT managers should make protecting their systems from a DNS attack a priority, despite the budget constraints that they are operating under. Despite the threat posed by the vulnerability discovered last year and despite other DNS attacks, such as cache poisoning and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS), a quarter of all networks had not been patched by mid-November, according to the Measurement Group. A separate survey of 466 enterprise online customers conducted by DNSstuff in September revealed that 9.6 percent had not patched their DNS servers and 21.9 percent did not know if they were patched. The findings show that despite the DNS community's and several vendors' efforts, a significant number of server administrators have yet to take action. As for the reasons behind the lack of patches, more than 45 percent cited a lack of internal resources, 30 percent said they were unaware of the vulnerability, and 24 percent reported they didn't have enough knowledge of DNS to take the appropriate steps. Source: <http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?newsID=108922&pagetype=all>
26. *December 31, HotHardware.com* – (International) **Flash & Safari fail in privacy test.** As Mozilla's Firefox, Google's Chrome, Microsoft's Internet Explorer, and Apple's Safari all compete against one another to try to see who can be the number one Web browser, certainly privacy is a key factor that influences success. A researcher at San Francisco security firm iSec Partners recently took a closer look into the effectiveness of

the newest batch of browser privacy tools. In her research, she found particular problems with Safari, and also concluded that none of the four major browsers extends privacy protections to Adobe's Flash plug-in. In the researcher's tests, Apple's Safari fared the worst of the browsers: When surfing in "private browsing mode" on a Macintosh running OS X, Safari was, as she put it, "quirky" in that the browser accessed some of the cookies previously stored on her computer but not others. On a Windows XP machine, she found Safari's private browsing mode to be even worse — with no privacy at all. In fact, the browser accessed previously set cookies and did not delete any new ones in this scenario.

Source: <http://hothardware.com/News/Flash--Safari-Fail-in-Privacy-Test/>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

27. *January 2, ZDNet.co.uk* – (International) **'Curse of silence' smartphone flaw disclosed.** A denial-of-service attack that limits the number of short message service (SMS) messages that can be received by Nokia smartphones has been disclosed. Dubbed the 'Curse of Silence' by a German security researcher, the attack occurs when Nokia Series 60 phones are sent a malformed email message via SMS. An advisory made public by the researcher on Tuesday explained that, after receiving a message from a sender with an email address of greater than 32 characters, Nokia S60 2.6, 2.8, 3.0 and 3.1 devices are not able to receive any more SMS or multimedia message service (MMS) messages. Affected users must perform a factory reset of the handset to remedy the issue. No firmware fix was available at the time of the advisory. "Nokia is not currently aware of any malicious incidents on the S60 platform related to this alleged issue and we do not believe that it represents a significant risk to customers' devices," a Nokia spokesperson said. "Nokia believes that the vulnerability may be valid for some of the S60 on Symbian OS products. We are also working with the Symbian team to further investigate the vulnerability." Software security company F-Secure said on Tuesday that Sony Ericsson UIQ devices may also be vulnerable to this type of attack. F-Secure added that the company had managed to test the flaw and add protection to its Mobile Security product.

Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/security/0,1000000189,39586953,00.htm>

28. *December 31, Jackson County Floridian* – (Florida) **Embarq: DOT contractor broke cable.** A two-day outage of Embarq Internet access and long distance phone service is most likely resolved, according to a representative from Embarq, who said Tuesday the cause of the problem was a broken fiber optic cable. It was damaged by a Florida

Department of Transportation contractor Monday near Chipley. Approximately 5,000 customers from Fort Walton to Chipley were affected by the broken cable. Embarq did follow-up testing Tuesday, which caused sporadic interference in service throughout the area, he said.

Source:

[http://www.jcfloridan.com/jcf/news/local/article/embarq\\_dot\\_contractor\\_broke\\_cable/52764/](http://www.jcfloridan.com/jcf/news/local/article/embarq_dot_contractor_broke_cable/52764/)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

29. *January 2, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Man sought in Aspen threats kills himself.**

A one-time resident of Aspen, Colorado, who had been bitter over its transformation into a playground for the rich, left four gift-wrapped bombs downtown in a bank-robbery attempt, turning New Year's Eve celebrations into a mass evacuation, police said Thursday. The dangerous bombs were made of gasoline and cell phone parts and came with notes warning of "mass death." The 72-year-old man suspected of placing them in two banks and in an alleyway on Wednesday shot and killed himself a short time later, police said. The man had walked into two Aspen banks about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and left packages wrapped in holiday paper along with notes saying the boxes contained bombs, police said. The notes threatened "mass death," demanded \$60,000 cash, and included criticisms of the current U.S. President, the assistant Aspen police chief said. The man's notes said he was targeting four banks, police said, but only two — a Wells Fargo Bank and a nearby Vectra Bank — received the packages. Later, police found two similar packages atop a black sled in a downtown alley. The threats prompted police to clear nearly all of downtown Aspen — 16 blocks that otherwise would have been filled with tens of thousands of New Year's revelers. Residents were allowed to return at 4 a.m. Police bomb squads detonated the bombs once the area was cleared; no one was injured. The Aspen Times reported that the man left a typewritten note at the newspaper's offices Wednesday evening saying, "Aspen will pay a horrible price in blood" if his demands were not met. The note also said a fifth bomb was "hidden in a high end watering hole," and Aspen bars had been searched but no additional bomb was discovered.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28458836/>

30. *January 2, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Earthquake drill finds weaknesses in steel high-rises.**

The Great Southern California ShakeOut, the nation's largest quake drill, suggested that about five high-rise steel buildings in the region would collapse in the modeled magnitude 7.8 quake. High-rise steel buildings sustained less damage than unreinforced brick buildings and older concrete buildings in the analysis. But the damage they sustained was greater than expected based on the standard building design formulas. "It has huge implications," said a U.S. Geological Survey seismologist who served as chief scientist for the ShakeOut project. "When these types of buildings collapse, we could have 1,000 people in them. That's something to worry about." The principal inspector for the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety said the scenario is interesting but does not necessarily demand action. He said that changing

building codes “is based on forensics, on what we’ve seen happen. Engineers are not willing to make changes on what people theorize might happen.” Standard building design formulas rely on the average effects of earthquakes recorded worldwide, said an assistant professor of civil engineering and geophysics at Caltech who led the modeling. But information on earthquakes the size of the one modeled — a magnitude 7.8 on the San Andreas fault — is sparse, he said. Despite the debate about how many steel buildings are likely to fall in simulated circumstances, the process has produced more consensus among scientists and engineers that an earthquake of this kind would bring down tall buildings.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-steeltower2-2009jan02,0,293347.story>

31. *January 2, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **RI police investigate small explosion at Starbucks.** Police in Providence, Rhode Island, are investigating a small explosion that forced the evacuation of a Starbucks coffee shop. Authorities at the scene told WJAR-TV that they think the explosion late New Year’s Day was caused by a homemade bomb. About 25 people were inside the shop when the blast happened just after 11 p.m. on Thursday. No one was reported injured.

Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20090102/starbucks-explosion/>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

32. *January 2, National Parks Gallery* – (Massachusetts) **Firefighters knock down small blaze on USS Cassin Young.** Rangers spotted thick black smoke issuing from the stern upper deck on the USS Cassin Young, a World War II destroyer, around 10 p.m. on December 30. An engine from Boston Fire Department responded; upon seeing the thick black smoke, firefighters summoned additional support. At least three ladder trucks, four engines, two Emergency Medical Services vehicles, four Boston Fire Department SUV’s, two Boston Police Department cruisers, and three boats — one each from Boston Fire Department, Boston Police Department, and the Coast Guard — all responded. Firefighters sprayed about 200 gallons of water on the area of the ship from which the smoke was emanating and knocked down the fire. The smoke was found to be issuing from the boiler room. Boston Fire Department investigators and National Park Service personnel determined that one of the boilers had failed due to age and was the cause of the smoke. The damage has been estimated at about \$25,000. The USS Constitution, berthed nearby, was not affected.

Source: [http://www.nationalparksgallery.com/park\\_news/7716](http://www.nationalparksgallery.com/park_news/7716)

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## **Dams Sector**

33. *January 2, Associated Press* – (Northeast) **Delaware River groups want reservoirs lowered.** Environmental groups and residents fearful of flooding along the Delaware River are asking for more water to be released from three upstate New York reservoirs.

Three major floods between 2004 and 2006 caused several deaths and tens of millions of dollars in property damage along the Delaware, mostly in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The reservoirs were at or near capacity just before all three floods. Unable to store water from torrential rains, they sent billions of gallons down the river and into homes and businesses. Since then, groups have been closely monitoring the reservoir levels and have repeatedly sought to have them lowered. The reservoirs, which can store a combined 271 billion gallons of water, provide drinking water to 9 million people in the Delaware River basin. New York City has sought to keep them as full as possible as a hedge against drought. “All three reservoirs will soon start spilling. A major flood could occur with any large rainfall if the water levels aren’t lowered quickly,” the president of Drowning on the Delaware, one of the groups asking for water to be released, said in a statement.

Source: [http://www.eveningsun.com/ci\\_11355231](http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_11355231)

34. *December 30, Smoky Mountain Times* – (North Carolina) **Duke plans siren for Ela Dam area.** Although Duke Energy officials say they believe it is “very unlikely” that Duke’s hydroelectric dam at Ela would ever fail, the power company is planning to “be prepared.” In a recent notice to customers, Duke states, “In our operations at the Bryson Hydroelectric Station on Lake Ela, our first commitment is to safety. Although it is very unlikely that we would ever have a failure of the dam, it is part of our philosophy to be prepared.” Preparations will include an emergency siren to alert neighbors downstream should the dam actually fail. The 80-year-old dam was built as the Bryson City Municipal Electric Power Plant, subsequently sold to Nantahala Power & Light, eventually becoming part of the Duke system. The concrete multiple-arch dam is 341 feet across and 36 feet high.

Source: <http://www.thesmokymountaintimes.com/articles/2008/12/31/news/news04.txt>

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